

5/18/89

SUBJECT: Elevator advisory board

COMMITTEE: Labor and Employment: favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes--Criss, Shine, Evans, P. Moreno, Mowery, Ovard, Turner
0 nays
1 absent--Fraser

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 13 -- voice vote

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: SB 626 would establish an Elevator Advisory Board to advise the commissioner of labor and standards on adopting standards for the installation, operation and status of elevators, escalators and similar equipment, such as moving sidewalks. The board would be required to meet at least twice a year.

The elevator advisory board would consist of eight members appointed by the commissioner of labor and standards as follows: one representative of the insurance industry, one representative of elevator and escalator equipment constructors, one representative of owners or managers of building with less than six stories and another from buildings of six or more stories, a representative of independent elevator and escalator maintenance companies, a representative of elevators and escalator equipment manufacturers, a representative of professional engineers, and a public member.

The commissioner would be required to adopt standards for installation and operation of elevators and like equipment in state buildings and other buildings with public elevators. The standards adopted by the commissioner could not be more stringent than the standards of the American National Standards Institute at the time the elevator was constructed or installed. Elevators and like equipment would have to be inspected once a year.

A certificate of inspection would cover all the elevators located in a building or adjoining garage.

The inspection certificate would have to be displayed in the elevator mechanical room or escalator box.

Certificates of inspection would cost \$10 would have to be filed within 30 days of inspection; otherwise, the commissioner could charge the property owner an additional fee of \$100. The money would be deposited in the General Revenue Fund and be used to administer and enforce the elevator inspection program.

Property owners would be in violation of the law if they did not inspect elevators and like equipment in their buildings at least once a year. It would be a Class C misdemeanor (maximum penalty a \$200 fine) if the property owner failed or refused to have a building elevator inspected within 30 days of being notified by the commissioner. Each day a property owner was in violation after the 30th day would be a separate violation.

The bill would take effect Sept. 1, 1989.

SUPPORTERS
SAY:

SB 626 would help assure the public that public elevators are safe. Responsible building owners already have their elevators inspected on a regular basis for safety and insurance purposes. This bill would seek out those building owners who fail to inspect and service elevators on a timely basis. All other states have some type of elevator inspection program, and this type of safety program is long overdue in Texas.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

HB 863, the sunset bill for the Department of Labor and Standards would rename the department the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.